



RIDER ED DIRECT

April 2008

A Monthly Communication to Michigan's Chapter Educators
From your GWRRR Michigan District Rider Ed Team
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RIDER EDUCATION DIVISION of GWRRR

Our Mission:

*To Save Lives
Through Quality,
World Class Education*

Our Motto:

"Safety Is For Life"

Rider Ed Levels Program

Level III -
Safety by Preparedness



Requirements:

Current member GWRRR,
current in Level II, maintain
current First Aid or CPR cer-
tificate, carry First Aid kit on
the motorcycle.

How Are You Starting the Season?

April is here and now the riding season really begins! Maybe you have recently taken a CPR/First Aid class or a seminar or two during this past off-season so you will be available to spend more time riding when the weather warms up. Maybe you have also taken time to make sure your motorcycle is ready to go, too. You may have changed the oil, replaced worn tires, kept your battery charged – or found that you need a new one and replaced it. There are other things that you can do to be at your best out on the road, too. Last month we talked about the Rider Courses that will be available to you this season, but most of us will be out on the road before the courses come around. So what else can you do to get in the right frame of mind and tune up your skills right away? There are a few things you can do in a group, such as with your fellow chapter members, or as an individual, to be prepared to ride safely and with skill on our nation's highways and byways before the season is even two weeks old. First, how about participating in a Parking Lot Practice? Also referred to as a PLP, this is an activity that many Chapters hold at the chapter level. The exercises in a PLP are all spelled out in the Cornering Practice Guide along with tips to execute the skills correctly. Talk to your Chapter Educator about holding a Parking Lot Practice for your chapter. Second, you can attend a Team Riding Seminar. This Rider Ed seminar is available for presentation at your chapter, and may be available at some District rallies. This seminar is particularly good to hold at your chapter because the folks who are normally part of your riding team can all hear the same Team Riding tips. Why would you sit through a Team Riding Seminar? One reason is because most of us ride to various places around Michigan with our riding friends. And if you know what to expect from the others in your group – your *team* – you will be more likely to trust them. You will trust them because you'll know they are all going to ride safely and predictably in a group formation. That is what the Team Riding Seminar provides you. Third, you can practice your skills in an empty, quiet parking lot safely away from moving vehicles. Find a church lot or a school lot, or some unused out-of-the-way space with no activity at a shopping center. Choose a time when it is unlikely to be busy, (e.g., a school lot on Sunday) as your safety is of the utmost importance. Work on turning, curves, braking, stopping while in a curve (remember to straighten the handlebars *before* braking!), and turning when pulling away from a stop. When you practice alone, always remain vigilant to vehicles encroaching on your space. Getting back to the bike for a minute, if you put new tires on your bike for the new season, know that the manufacturers recommend that you take it easy on those tires for the first 50 – 100 miles. That means go easy in the curves and easy on acceleration to prevent slide-outs. The reason is because the surface of the tire will be slickest (slippery) when new. There are a couple of common explanations why, but the result is the same – reduced traction. The rubber will get scuffed and roughed up from normal riding and the grip will improve. Be particularly careful with new tires on painted stripes and metal plates, and all surfaces that are slick even when your tires aren't. Remember that practice in a parking lot, by yourself or with others, is good for all of us after the long off-season. It is even more beneficial and important if you recently bought a new or used motorcycle. Get to know that new-to-you bike and how it handles in a safe environment. After brushing up your skills, you'll be ready to go out and enjoy a safe riding season!

Planning Reminders:

1. Remind your chapter members to get their Rider Course Registrations submitted soon to make sure they have a spot reserved in one of the six course locations around the state. You can help facilitate your group attending the same location by submitting applications together for the same weekend. The sooner the better! Find the form at this link:

http://www.gwrra-mi.org/RiderEdForms/2008_Rider_Course_Registration.pdf

2. May is Motorist Awareness Month in Michigan. Help spread the word around your chapter, your place of work, and your neighborhood. Motorcycles will be on the road and we want them all to be looking for us. Rider Ed has yellow yard signs to promote the idea to everyone who drives past your house. They will be available at the Officers Meeting on April 5th & 6th for \$4.00 each.

3. The Michigan Rally will offer two riding challenges to all riders: Top Gun and the Amazing Team Challenge. Practicing the skills required in each of these events will help every rider improve their riding skills. Encourage your members to practice the exercises found in the Top Gun Manual, found at the following link:

<http://www.gwrra-mi.org/RiderEdForms/TopGunManualRevised01-05.pdf>

Thanks for all you do for Rider Education! And remember: **Safety Is For Life!**